

Remarks

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application as amended.

Claims 1, 6, 12 and 15 have been amended. No claims have been cancelled. Therefore, claims 1-18 are presented for examination.

Claims 12-14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. Applicant submits that claim 12 has been amended to appear in proper condition for allowance.

Claims 1-3 and 5-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Diepstraten et al. (U.S. Pub. No. 2003/0026198). Applicant submits that the present claims are patentable over Diepstraten.

Diepstraten discloses for a medium access controller (MAC) device on a wireless LAN interface card installed in a network station or on a wireless LAN interface card installed in an access point. The MAC device relates to a carrier sensing detector for the IEEE 802.11 extension for high bit rate payload transmissions in a 2.4 GHz band. In a wireless LAN device, the MAC device 301 comprises a MAC controller chip, a digital signal processor DSP, and a front-end RF (Radio Frequency) communication device. The MAC controller chip is connected through a bus interface to a host processor means. Further, the MAC controller interfaces to the DSP which is connected to the front-end RF (Radio Frequency) communication device. The front-end RF communication device connects to an antenna. The MAC device may comprise an on-board memory interfaced to the controller chip. Alternatively, the components may be separate devices or integrated into one device. The DSP performs modulation and demodulation and handles control signals between the MAC controller and RF. Between the MAC controller and the DSP I/O data are exchanged

(e.g., data to transmit, data received, clock signal, control signal). The DSP is connected to the RF front-end communication device through signal lines for the transmission and reception of the I (in-phase) and Q (quadrature) signal components of the QPSK modulated CCK symbols. The RF front-end communication device is normally operating in reception mode, taking care of gain steps (including automatic gain control), down conversion from RF frequency to baseband signal, preferably, by means of conversion to an IF frequency (Inter Frequency) and filter stages. In the transmission state, the RF front-end communication device 304 handles filtering, up-conversion (preferably, by an IF frequency step) and amplification of signals. See Diepstraten at ([0050-0052]).

Claim 1 of the present application recites monitoring a receive signal strength indicator (RSSI) value at the MAC processing element to determine if the data symbols have been completely transmitted from a system transmitter. Applicant submits that nowhere in Diepstraten is there disclosed that the MAC device monitors a RSSI. Therefore, claim 1 is patentable over Diepstraten.

Claims 2-5 depend from claim1 and include additional features. Thus, claims 2-5 are also patentable over Diepstraten.

Claim 6 recites a media access layer (MAC) digital signal processor (DSP) to monitor a receive signal strength indicator (RSSI) value to identify that the transmission of all data symbols from the network controller has been completed. For the reasons described above with respect to claim 1, claim 6 is also patentable over Diepstraten. Because claims 7-11 depend from 6 and include additional features, claims 7-11 are also patentable over Diepstraten.

Claim 12 recites a media access layer (MAC) digital signal processor (DSP) to monitor a receive signal strength indicator (RSSI) value to identify that the transmission of all data symbols from the network controller has been completed. Thus, for the reasons described above with respect to claim 1, claim 12 is also patentable over Diepstraten. Because claims 13 and 14 depend from 12 and include additional features, claims 13 and 14 are also patentable over Diepstraten.

Claim 15 recites causing a MAC processing element to monitor a receive signal strength indicator (RSSI) value to determine if the data symbols have been completely transmitted from a system transmitter. Thus, for the reasons described above with respect to claim 1, claim 15 is also patentable over Diepstraten. Since claims 16-18 depend from 15 and include additional features, claims 16-18 are also patentable over Diepstraten.

Claims 4 and 18 stand rejected under 5 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Diepstraten in view of Wang et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,005,853). Applicants submit that the claims are patentable over Diepstraten even in view of Wang.

Wang discloses a network access scheme that enhances channel utilization under the ALOHA protocol by making use of the FM capture effect. The resulting network access scheme allows a transmitter to transmit a message simultaneously with other transmitters to a receiver without the need for retransmission when the message reaches the receiver with sufficient strength over the strengths of the other transmissions. See Wang at Abstract.

Nonetheless, Wang does not disclose or suggest a MAC DSP to monitor a RSSI value to identify that the transmission of all data symbols from the network controller has been completed. As discussed above, Diepstraten does not disclose or suggest such a feature.

Therefore, any combination of Diepstraten and Wang would also not disclose or suggest the feature. As a result, the present claims are patentable over Diepstraten in view of Wang.

Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections have been overcome and that the claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request the rejections be withdrawn and the claims be allowed.


The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at (303) 740-1980 if there remains any issue with allowance of the case.

Please charge any shortage to our Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

Date: May 31, 2005



Mark L. Watson
Reg. No. 46,322

12400 Wilshire Boulevard
7th Floor
Los Angeles, California 90025-1026
(303) 740-1980